



STATE BUDGET COULD MEAN TAX HIKES, BUT MORE SCHOOL AID

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(03/28/08) **WOODBURY** - Gov. David Paterson and state lawmakers hammered out a framework for the state budget Thursday in an attempt to get it passed on time and some say Long Island may be getting the short end of the stick.

The budget cuts aid from Albany to counties by 2 percent and forces the counties to pick up more of the costs for welfare services.

"Be a big man," Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy said on an emergency conference call. "Make cuts you have to make. Don't be a coward and shift costs to others to pick up."

Both counties are feeling the effects of the slumping economy and such a budget could leave them millions of dollars in the hole.

Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi told **News 12 Long Island** that the passage of that budget would definitely result in tax increases for the county.

Deputy State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre) said counties must do more than point the finger at Albany for money troubles. "They have to tighten their belts too," he said.

On the education front, the state budget includes a nearly \$2 billion increase in school aid, which has many parents and teachers pleased. Some school administrators say they want to see details of how the extra aid would be allocated.

[Click to watch more on school aid](#)

Video : <http://news12.cv.net/video/FL0328BT.wmv>